

**From:** Zachary Johnson  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/6/01 9:28pm  
**Subject:** Don't Settle With Microsoft

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to take this brief opportunity to voice my objection to the proposed settlement with Microsoft.

As someone who grew up with computers, I've watched quite a bit of technology come and go, not all of it deserving. Names which once carried great excitement, now consigned to history, abound: Stacker, Netscape Navigator, Word Perfect, Amipro, Lotus 1-2-3, OS/2, Telemate and so many more; each of these products fell victim to classic Sherman-style monopolistic predation: using the Windows Operating System monopoly to effectively "squeeze" out competitors. Microsoft quashed Stacker, then the leader of disk compression software, when it included DoubleSpace into MS-DOS and later Windows 95 and up. Microsoft quashed Netscape Navigator when it included Explorer into Windows 95, NT and up. Microsoft quashed Word Perfect my giving Office developers access to critical Windows computer code (Application Programming Interfaces) not available to other companies. Microsoft quashed Ami-Pro the same way. Microsoft quashed Lotus 1-2-3 the same way. Microsoft quashed OS/2 by predatory licensing practices that punished PC vendors for including non-Microsoft operating systems and by refusing to make other applications, like Office, compatible with OS/2 despite demand. Microsoft quashed Telemate out of existence, and many other serial communications programs, by including Hyperterminal with Windows 95 and up.

The vicissitudes of the software industry over the last ten years has brought improvement, but at a great price: innovation. Consider disk compression alone. During the great Stacker versus DriveSpace competition, compression technology went from non-existent to 2x compression in just a few years. That was 1993. Drive compression technology has not improved significantly ever since. The same can be said for dozens of other market niches.

Keep in mind the story of OS/2. I remember how excited hundreds of independent software vendors, and tens of thousands of consumers, were when Microsoft was before Judge Stanley Sporkin in it's previous anti-trust trial. Many people were excited when Judge Sporkin refused to sign the settlement between the Justice Dept and Microsoft. I also remember how dejected we all became when the Appeal Court intervened. OS/2, a truly innovative Operating System which featured cutting edge technology long before it was incorporated into Windows, soon withered under the dark eclipse of Microsoft's licensing practices.

Bear this in mind:

Most likely you are using a Windows-based PC to read this message. Much of the software included on this machine represents a once-thriving segment of the software industry that no longer exists because Microsoft tied one of its products, or a product of a company in which Microsoft has an equity stake in, to its Operating System monopoly.

Please, for us tired and weary computer users, reject the agreement lest we be back here again in another five years.

Sincerely although tired,

Zachary Johnson  
Computer Professional, Enthusiast, and Legal History Wonk.